

REMARKS

The indication that claims 23-24 and 28-29 have been allowed and that claims 22 and 27 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In view of the indication that claims 22 and 27 include patentable subject matter, claims 23 and 28 have been amended to place them in a form that is substantially similar to claims 22 and 27 by deleting the last paragraph. While this changes the scope of claims 23 and 28, the scope has been changed in a manner that preserves the patentable subject matter indicated in claims 22 and 27 (the differences between the other limitations - e.g., between the changing steps of claims 20 and 23 - does not affect the patentability of amended claims 23 and 28). The subject matter removed from claims 23 and 28 has been reinserted in new dependent claims 30 and 31. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 23-24 and 28-31 are respectfully requested because these claims include the subject matter indicated to be allowable in claims 22 and 27.

Claims 20-21 and 25-26 were rejected as anticipated by VALIMAA et al. 5,926,769. Claims 20 and 25 have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

These amended claims provide, among other features, that the change in mode occurs as soon as the unique identity of the operated one of the plural keys is determined. Support for

this change is found, for example, in Figure 3 at steps S2 and S3. As shown therein, as soon as the identity of the operated key is determined (step S2), the list is displayed (step S3), based on the identity of the operated key. Note that the word "solely" has been removed from claims 20 and 25 as this was given no patentable weight in the Official Action and thus its deletion does not affect the patentability of the claim.

VALIMAA et al. do not disclose or suggest changing the mode as soon as the unique identity of the operated one of the plural keys is determined. In this reference, the mode is changed only after the key is depressed for more than a predetermined period of time or for a plurality of times within a predetermined period of time. There is no suggestion to change the mode any sooner, as would be necessary to meet this limitation of claims 20 and 25. Accordingly, amended claims 20 and 25 avoid the rejection under §102.

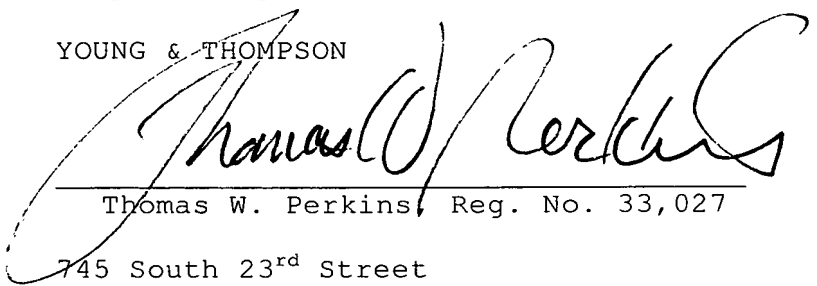
New claims 32-33 have also been added that parallel claims 30-31. Consideration and allowance of these new claims is also respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/fb